explosives, AK 47 Rifle with rounds etc. have been recovered from the border areas in Rajasthan. As per inputs received from the Central agencies, the consignment had been delivered by a Pakistan-based smuggler and the Indian contact had been directed to keep it in safe custody and await further Instructions from across the border. There is a strong possibility that these consignments were sent for causing public distrubances.

In order to curb such activities, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, *inter-alia,* strengthening border management to check illegal cross-border activities, fencing/flood lighting the entire border, round the clock patrolling by the Border Security Force, gearing up of intelligence machinery, improved technology, weapons and equipments for the security forces, both at the Centre and the States. Night curlew has also been imposed by the State Government along the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan.

Withdrawal of National Programme on Improved Chulhas

* 247. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC) is being withdrawn;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many poor rural women are going to be adversely affected due to such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) No. Sir. A proposal for transferring the National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC), along with many other Centrally Sponsored Schemes, to the State Plan Sector is presently under consideration of the Committee of the National Development Council (NDC). To tide over the current financial year (2002-03), the NPIC is being continued, for which suitable budget provision is expected at the Revised Estimate stage. Besides, the Union Ministry of Rural Development are continuing to include the construction of improved chulhas as an important component of the Indira Awas Yojana and many State Governments have started promoting improved chulhas in their respective rural housing schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.